PFAS: What are they, and what can we do about them?

Brian Penttila

Safer Alternatives Chemist

Washington Department of Ecology 300 Desmond Drive S.E. Lacey, Washington 98503 360-407-6758 brian.penttila@ecy.wa.gov

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are ubiquitous environmental contaminants. Hundreds of members of this chemical class are found in contaminated air, water, soil and sediment. PFAS have unique and highly valued properties, but are difficult to detect and quantify and many are highly mobile and/or transform into extremely persistent substances.

This session will review the chemistry and fate of PFAS substances and possible options to reduce releases affecting drinking water sources.